

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, May 15, 2012**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Don Woods called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Board: Mary Udice, Eileen Francolino, Kathy Zolad, Bill DeBlasio, Jen Win-Johnson, Jeff Perillo, Ed Marchion, Richard Khentigan, Jim Marocchini, Don Woods.

Board Members Absent: Robert Fresen

Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till

Town Liaison: None

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2012

Rich Khentigan made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2012 meeting. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 9-0 vote. Mary Udice abstained

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

No questions on Monthly Report

VI. OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY CENTER PROPOSALS

Moving forward with the Community Center Proposals and meetings have been set up for Bruce Till and his staff to meet with the architect. The sub-committee will be meeting to discuss renovating current building or to find a location for a new building, also to prioritize the future needs of what should be incorporated in the new facility. Location is still up in the air, will be a long process, many meetings with civic organizations, public hearings and possible surveys with the citizens of Newington to gather different ideas and thoughts on what the people are looking for in a community center. Budget is currently being considered. Bruce Till mentioned the Town Manager wants to include the Town Hall in with the renovation of Community Center and renovate current building. Bruce would like to see a standalone building that would possibly include aquatics area and would alleviate renovating one of the town pools in the future. Bruce would like a facility that all current and future programs will have adequate space and incorporate other town departments, ie: food pantry, art programs, into this building, not just parks and recreation programs. Rich Khentigan asked if grants were available to help fund the building. Grants will be searched out by Architects, Town Manager and Bruce Till. Jen Win-Johnson brought up the idea of touring other town community centers with newer facilities to get ideas of what to incorporate into the new community center. Don Woods asked if he could obtain some information from Bruce Till on the breakdown of components included, square footage and costs of other facility centers. Foreseeable problems: if current building is renovated, a year plus of renovations will interfere with currently running programs in existing community center during this process.

MILL POND PARK PLAYSCAPE POURED IN-PLACE

Drainage issues still need to be addressed and investigated. Bruce Till met with Mark Roming, Chris the Town Engineer, and with Bob Stanley to gather information on what happened during the original project and to get an understanding of original drainage and sub-base material that is in existing playscape area. Bruce Till mentioned that Bob Stanley thought there was drainage put in during original project. Mark Roming does not recommend spending \$90,000.00 on a new poured in place in the existing space for various reasons, soil conditions, existing concrete curbing, compaction needed in sub-base material to do poured in place or tile is at 90% how will drainage be put in when the compaction is at 90% . Most likely there wasn't the proper amount of sub-base material for drainage put in during original project or holes for drainage put in to let the water out. Bruce Till is continuing his investigation, trying to get a hold of who was involved in the original project's base material. Bruce Till thinks a new poured in place is possible but does not want to spend \$90,000 and find out it is not going to work. Bruce Till passed around pictures when the Highway Department got involved to install drainage after the playscape was installed. Don Woods mentioned that Stamm said that he does not recall seeing any drainage or process put in during original project.

Concerns regarding a new poured in place: Don Woods spoke with Alan Nafis who is an engineer, he said the cost could be high but with the proper drainage will dry up the area. Bruce Till mentioned current playground equipment may only have another five years left before a new one has to be installed because of code changes. Options: could possibly move playground to a new location, incorporate playscape into a new design that could include a spray park and some other things. Don Woods pointed out that a new playscapes footprint may not fit the old. Is it a good idea to spend this money on a new poured in place? At this time playscape structure is up to code and is in good condition. Bruce Till would like patch work done to the existing poured in place before the Extravaganza if possible, if not now then during the summer months. Other options for the poured in place: Mary Udice suggested that a new playground/park be tied in with a new community center but only if a new building was going up then moving the playground would make sense. Jen Win-Johnson thinks a playground should be kept within walking distance of the center of the town. Bruce wants to make sure the right decision is made either to move the playscape to new area, make sure the drainage properly installed for a new poured in place, or possibly wait for new playscape equipment before the \$90,000.00 is put in to it.

MILL POND PARK PROJECT

Highway dept has paved the path, concrete work has been completed, and trees have been planted. Project is completed, including the bridges and stairs. Final numbers will be tallied by next month's meeting. Bruce feels it is a great improvement to the Park, looks 100% better. Renovations were made to bridge by the falls, 10 – 15 year life span for the new bridge.

EXTRAVAGANZA UPDATE

No update on extravaganza, no new information from Stephanie. Eileen Francolino has talked to the Fire Departments to do a Chili Challenge at the extravaganza on a Friday night to bring up sales in the Beer Garden. Don Woods suggested bringing the Chili Challenge into the Beer Garden to bring people. The Fire Department wants to be involved and is working with Eileen. She will have more information at the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Building committee for the synthetic field will be meeting to dissolve; need approval of project for the closing out process of the building committee. \$48,236.80 was given back from the original budget that was for this project.

Motion was made by Kathy Zolad to accept this field so the closing out process can begin. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Golf Tournament was a success, great weather. 104 golfers this year. Lost one sponsor but gained other sponsorship. Bruce Till passed out budget for Tournament, not listed on budget but should be allotted on expense side \$4,000.00 for lunch and dinner, \$1,000.00 for signs and banners, add approx \$5,000.00 to expense side of Budget. The Tournament brought in approx. \$10,000.00 this year, last years tournament approx. \$11,000.00.

Teen Center had a problem with sewer line that ran thru the building. New carpet and linoleum has been put down, painted and getting new furniture. Summer preschool program and Teen Program running there over the summer. It was an insurance claim.

Bill DeBlasio looking for an update on the High School, should be discussed with the Board of Ed.

Don Woods went to Charter Revision meeting to discuss that the existing charter section that has the Board of Parks and Rec concurring with the Town Manager with regards to the hiring of a new superintendent of Parks and Recreation be changed to the sole responsibility of the Town Manager.

Don Woods mentioned someone expanded the community gardens, was the water expanded in the garden as well. Bruce confirmed that it was expanded.

Don Woods had a complaint from a citizen about the lower slope at the synthetic turf field at the north end isn't being mowed and is attracting mosquitoes. Bruce will look into it.

Don Woods concerned about the sports departments paying their lighting bills. Bruce has invoiced both football and soccer organizations, still waiting for payment. Don Woods would like to know how future billing will be handled. Bruce Till would like to bill organizations seasonally.

Skate Park fence work is completed; caulking and crack sealing still need to be done.

Don Woods congratulated the Golf Committee for a job well done on the Golf Tournament.

Jeff Perillo asked about the final numbers for the signs at Clem Lemire. Bruce Till would like to talk with Don Woods and other members of the youth organization. Bruce needs to look into TPZ regulations.

Eileen Francolino asked about rental income for synthetic field. Bruce Till mentioned only one rental, earned approx. \$900.00.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Rich Khentigan to adjourn. Jeff Perillo seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm with a 10 - 0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay